

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 AID-20 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 124700

R 040844 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4100

INFO DEA JUSTICE WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

UNCLAS SAIGON 11994

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR VS

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED HEROIN

BANGKOK FOR DEA

1. APPROXIMATELY ONE- HUNDRED KILOS OF PURE HEROIN WAS DESTROYED BY BURNING THIS MORNING AT A PUBLIC CEREMONY IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON.

2. MINISTER OF JUSTICE THU, MINISTER OF FINANCE TRUNG, GENERAL LAM, ADMIRAL CANG, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF MILITARY, POLICE, AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS PRESIDED THIS MORNING OVER A CEREMONY AT WHICH AWARDS WERE GIVEN TO VIETNAMESE POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROGRAM. AWARDS WERE ALSO GIVEN TO CHARGE D' AFFAIRES CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE, DEA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FRED C. DICK, SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM, SPECIAL AGENT STEPHEN H. GREENE, AND SPECIAL AGENT JOSEPH DALY. THE CEREMONY CLOSED WITH THE PUBLIC BURNING OF ONE- HUNDRED KILOS OF PURE HEROIN. THE HEROIN WAS SAMPLED FOR FURTHER TESTING BY MR.

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STANLEY SOBEL, CHIEF CHEMIST, SPECIAL TESTING AND RESEARCH LABORATORY, DEA. MR. SOBEL CONDUCTED SAMPLE TESTING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES JUST PRIOR TO BURNING.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE LARGEST PUBLIC DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED HEROIN EVER CONDUCTED. WE ESTIMATE THAT AT CURRENT STREET PRICES IN THE U. S. THE VALUE OF THE HEROIN DESTROYED WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY \$25 MILLION.

4. THE SAIGON CEREMONY WAS COVERED BY THE LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS, INCLUDING SEVERAL TELEVISION NETWORKS. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA TAKE STEPS TO PUBLICIZE THIS EVENT WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION FIELD. WE NOTE THAT MR. BARTELS HAS JUST ASSUMED HIS DUTIES AS ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, DEA, AND HE MAY FIND IT OPPORTUNE TO ALLUDE TO THIS EVENT IN A FORTHCOMING PUBLIC APPEARANCE.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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